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JC14 Rec'd PCT/PTO 06 MAY 2005

Attorney Docket No.: 02/071K NUT
Customer No. 38263

PATENT

#4/A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Susanne RATHJEN *et al.*
International Application No.: PCT/EP2003/012567
International Filing Date: November 11, 2003

For: USE OF SWEETENER ACIDS FOR THE MICROBIOLOGICAL
STABILISATION OF FOODSTUFFS, COSMETIC PRODUCTS, CONSUMER
GOODS AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-145

Charlotte, North Carolina
May 6, 2005

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified PCT patent application as follows to bring it into conformance with United States national stage filing requirements:

Amendments to the Specification begin on Page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on Page 9 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on Page 12 of this paper and include attached replacement sheets.

Remarks/Arguments begin on Page 13 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including the replacement sheets is attached following Page 13 of this paper.